

# CANADIENS STRENGTHEN PLAYOFF, WIN AT PENGUINS

**PITTSBURGH:** Montreal took sole position of third place in the NHL Eastern Conference with a 6-5 shootout victory over conference-leading Pittsburgh on Thursday, with David Desharnais scoring the lone goal in the shootout. The Canadiens moved two points clear of divisional rivals Toronto and Tampa Bay, which both lost.

**Rangers 2, Blackhawks 1**

The New York Rangers shut down the NHL's most explosive team with a 2-1 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks.

Center Derick Brassard and left wing Rick Nash scored for New York, while Chicago center Peter Regin scored his third goal of the season with 12 seconds left in the game.

**Devils 5, Blue Jackets 2**

Center Adam Henrique scored twice as the New Jersey Devils used an early three-goal barrage to defeat the Columbus Blue Jackets 5-2.

Left wingers Ryane Clowe and Patrik Elias and right winger Jaromir Jagr added goals for the Devils. Right winger Marian Gaborik and left winger Artem Anisimov scored for the Blue Jackets. The Devils scored three goals in 2:45 of the first period to jump to a 3-0 lead.

**Islanders 5, Maple Leafs 4 (OT)**

Defenseman Lubomir Visnovsky scored with 3:05 left in overtime to cap a comeback 5-4 win by the New York Islanders over the Toronto Maple Leafs. Visnovsky picked up a loose puck and fired it past Toronto goaltender Jonathan Bernier to end a 22-minute period in which six goals were scored.

Center Anders Lee, who was recalled from AHL Bridgeport earlier this week to replace the injured John Taveras, scored a two game-tying goals in the third period.

Right winger Michael Grabner scored two short-handed goals on the same power play in the first period for the Islanders.

**Sharks 7, Flyers 3**

Center Joe Pavelski scored a hat trick while left wing Raffi Torres and center Logan Couture both scored two goals as the San Jose Sharks beat the Philadelphia Flyers 7-3. Defenseman Andrej Meszaros, center Brayden Schenn and right wing Matt Read scored for the Flyers.

**Capitals 5, Panthers 4**

Washington captain Alex Ovechkin scored the go-ahead goal with 4:17 remaining to give the Capitals a 5-4 victory over the Florida Panthers.

It was Ovechkin's 41st goal of the season and third point of the game for Washington, who twice allowed

the Panthers to overcome two-goal deficits.

**Red Wings 6, Senators 1**

Detroit Red Wings winger Johan Franzen scored three times to lead his team to a 6-1 victory over the Ottawa Senators.

Franzen, who missed 27 games due to concussion, completed his hat trick by the 3:49 mark of the second period, giving him 12 goals on the season. Center Riley Sheahan, winger Tomas Jurco and center Tomas Tatar also scored for Detroit.

**Predators 3, Lightning 2**

The Nashville Predators fell behind 2-0 midway through the first period but got two second-period power-play goals and another on a third-period man-advantage in a 3-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Nashville (26-24-10) center Craig Smith and defenseman Roman Josi scored in the second period and right winger Patric Hornqvist got the winner with 6:04 remaining.

Right winger Martin St. Louis scored twice for the Lightning.

**Jets 3, Coyotes 2 (shootout)**

Center Olli Jokinen's shootout goal lifted the Winnipeg Jets to a 3-2 victory over the Phoenix Coyotes.

Jets' right winger Devin Setoguchi and Coyotes center Antoine Vermette traded goals in the shootout before Jokinen deked goalie Mike Smith for the eventual winner.

Winnipeg goalie Ondrej Pavelec stopped center Mike Ribeiro on the final shot to give his side the win.

**Stars 4, Hurricanes 1**

Dallas Stars head coach Lindy Ruff's fears that his club might be rusty after the 19-day Olympic break were allayed as Dallas jumped to an early 2-0 lead and cruised to a 4-1 victory over the Carolina Hurricanes.

Stars center and captain Jamie Benn contributed a goal and two assists and goalie Kari Lehtonen made 29 saves for Dallas.

**Wild 3, Oilers 0**

Mikael Granlund, stephane Veilleux and Dany Heatley all scored goals in the first, second and third periods as the Minnesota Wild secured a 3-0 victory over the Edmonton Oilers. Wild goaltender Darcy Kuemper picked up the shutout, stopping 21 shots.

**Kings 2, Flames 0**

Los Angeles Kings goalie Jonathan Quick delivered a 25-save shutout to lead the Kings to a 2-0 victory over the Calgary Flames. Left wingers Dustin Brown and Dwight King scored for the Kings. —Reuters



**CALGARY:** Kevin Westgarth (L) of the Calgary Flames pushes Dustin Brown of the Los Angeles Kings away from the puck during the first period of their NHL hockey game at the Scotiabank Saddledome in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. —AFP

## NHL results/standings

New Jersey 5, Columbus 2; NY Islanders 5, Toronto 4 (OT); NY Rangers 2, Chicago 1; San Jose 7, Philadelphia 3; Montreal 6, Pittsburgh 5 (SO); Detroit 6, Ottawa 1; Washington 5, Florida 4; Nashville 3, Tampa Bay 2; Winnipeg 3, Phoenix 2 (So); Dallas 4, Carolina 1; Minnesota 3, Edmonton 0.

Western Conference							Eastern Conference						
Pacific Division							Atlantic Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS							
Anaheim	41	14	5	196	147	87	Boston	37	16	5	180	130	79
San Jose	38	16	6	182	145	82	Montreal	33	21	7	155	149	73
Los Angeles	33	22	6	147	132	72	Tampa Bay	33	21	5	170	148	71
Phoenix	27	21	11	165	172	65	Toronto	32	22	7	182	187	71
Vancouver	28	24	9	147	160	65	Detroit	28	20	12	159	165	68
Calgary	22	30	7	137	181	51	Ottawa	26	23	11	170	197	63
Edmonton	20	34	7	153	202	47	Florida	22	30	7	143	188	51
							Buffalo	17	34	8	118	178	42
Central Division							Metropolitan Division						
St. Louis	39	13	6	196	136	84	Pittsburgh	40	15	4	191	144	84
Chicago	35	12	14	208	165	84	NY Rangers	33	24	3	157	147	69
Colorado	37	17	5	178	159	79	Philadelphia	30	24	6	165	174	66
Minnesota	32	21	7	148	147	71	Washington	28	23	9	176	179	65
Dallas	28	21	10	168	165	66	Columbus	29	25	5	172	166	63
Winnipeg	29	26	6	171	177	64	New Jersey	25	22	13	140	148	63
Nashville	26	24	10	149	182	62	Carolina	26	24	9	147	165	61
							NY Islanders	23	30	8	169	204	54

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).